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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
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REPORT
CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY	North Korea	DATE OF INFORMATION	1950
SUBJECT	Military - Combat report		
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspaper	DATE DIST.	14 Nov 1950
WHERE PUBLISHED	P'yongyang	NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE PUBLISHED	4 Jul 1950		
LANGUAGE	Korean	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	

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SOURCE Chosun Inmingun.

RED PLATOON FORCES ENEMY BATTALION TO RETREAT

Kim Hyo-sam
special correspondent

At the XX front -- the time is 1500 hours, 26 June. The enemy is being disorganized and fragmented and is fleeing hastily before our forces.

The platoon led by Comrade Pak Sam-yong, under orders of Comrade Pae Yong-hwan, the company commander, began fierce pursuit of the retreating enemy.

For a moment it appeared that the enemy temporarily took up a position on a certain hill in an attempt to resist our oncoming thrust. But a freshly captured enemy prisoner reported that the enemy's main force was retreating to a village on the other side of the hill. Beyond the village stood a 200-meter mountain. There our platoon observed the enemy, estimated at two-company strength preparing to retreat. Comrade Pak Sam-yong decided to block the enemy's retreat by an ambush.

Our platoon opened up on the enemy concentration. Meanwhile, Comrade Pak dispatched two squads to the enemy's flanks while the rest of the platoon attacked the front. A fierce flight ensued. From the enemy's fire power we discovered that he had at least a battalion strength, instead of the two-company strength which we had originally estimated.

For a moment we felt ourselves to be in a tragic predicament. Contact with our company had been cut long ago, and we had no heavy machine guns. But worst of all, ammunition for our automatic rifles was running out.

About that time, Comrade Kim Tu-ho, leader of the 1st Squad, shot and killed the enemy's battalion commander, who was leading his troops on the front. This upset the enemy. It was clearly visible from our line that the enemy, losing their first commander, became shaky. At that time, Comrade Chong Pak-bong, one of our squad leaders, shouted: "1st Platoon attack the enemy's left flank, 2d Platoon, the right flank, 3d Platoon the front. The machine gun unit cover the advance!" He shouted it loud so as to be heard by the enemy. The trick worked. The enemy's

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second commander, apparently surprised by our "strength" which he "underestimated," ordered his troops to concentrate their fire on the spot where the shout came from, thinking that it was our command post.

Comrades Chin Kang-to and Yu Yong-hwan bravely charged upon the enemy's left flank, About 40 enemy troops led by the second battalion commander waved a white flag. Another portion of the enemy kept on firing at us. But the enemy's main force began to crumble, many of them fleeing in all directions and leaving their weapons behind.

In this battle Pak Sam-yong's platoon killed about 30 enemy troops, captured 40, and seized 40 automatic rifles, 4 heavy machine guns, 7 light machine guns, 9 carbines, 1 radio, and 4,000 rounds of bullets. The force which formed the enemy's right flank fled.

Two of our comrades were wounded. Our commander immediately proceeded with treating the wounded, and with the task of examining the prisoners and the captured weapons. At that time, about a half-dozen enemy snipers fired upon our position from about a 100-meter distance, injuring four of our men.

Several hours later the enemy apparently reorganized its force and took a stand on the mountain opposite our position. The enemy's strength was estimated at two companies' strength. Once again, we felt the pinch.

Our platoon leader calmly studied the situation and ordered the 1st Squad to a hill facing the enemy's left flank, the 2d Squad to the right flank, and a part of the 3d Squad to carry the wounded men to a safe spot, attend the prisoners, and move the captured weapons to another location.

The enemy's fire became heavier. Our men fought bravely against the overwhelming number. Our force mobilized all the fire power available, including the captured ones, and each man fired in close coordination with the next man so as to display our fire power most effectively throughout the line. The closely coordinated fire power coupled with the accuracy of our shooting finally forced the enemy to withdraw. It was more than 4 hours after the enemy launched the counterattack.

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